

Claims

I claim:

1. A method for facilitating the translation of files comprising:
creating an interface file including definitions ;
reading data from a first source;
reading the definitions contained in the interface file; and
translating said data from said first source according to the definitions contained
in the interface file.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said creating step comprises:
entering information regarding the type of interface file to be created;
entering data regarding the desired file format; and
entering formatting data regarding the format of the data being translated.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said entering formatting data step comprises:
entering formatting data regarding each field of data being translated.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said formatting data comprises:
a field name;
a description;
a length of the field;
an indicator of fixed-width/variable width status;
a mask to force data into a particular style;
justification information; position information; and
element information.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said element information comprises:
information regarding the type of data in the field, wherein said information is selected from the following: a calculated expression; a static table entry; alphanumeric information; and a query.
6. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
optionally selecting a template file as a starting point for creating the interface file;
optionally entering data regarding a sorting preference;
optionally entering data regarding a filtering preference;